

Generall Instructions of
the musters, for the men of warre in
service, of th' united provinces of the
low Contries.

2754
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As the same is corrected and augmented the xxviii of
Septembre, M. D. Lxxxvii.



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Instruction for the Commissaries of the musters ouer the men of warre benige in seruice of the vnited prouinces, so wel in the paye of her Maies^{tie}, as of the saide prouinces, of whatsoeuer nation they be, ordinarie or extraordinarie ac- cordinge to the whiche they are to demean themselves.

The saide Commissaries, aswel those that shall keepe their firme residence in the garrisons, towne, or places assigned them, as the others whiche followe the Courte, hauinge receyued the charge to passe muster, or take a verue of the men of warre vnder their charge, or others that shalbe commanded them shall not delaye it in any sorte: but shall prepare and transporte themselves presently, to their charge, without to geue the Captains or others any knowledge, onely one or two howres before at the most, ere they take suche musters, and then not to suffer the appointed howre to be delayde by the Captaines or others. And is to be understoode that the Commissaries haouinge the garrisons assigned them, maye take musters so oft as they shall thinke good, but shalbe bound at the least euerye monethe once to performe it, although they haue not spetiall charge to the ende, with out to keepe any ordinarie howre, but now and then before the endinge of the monethe and sometymes after as they shal thinke good.

The saide Commissaries shall take good regarde not to appoint the howre of musters after dinner vnlasse vppon vrgent necessity: but shall beginne their musters with the daye breakinge, to finish it (if possibly they can) before dinner:

And if the musters be done in any towne they shall desire, and if neede be shall ordeyne the Burgemaister of the same to assist them, or cause them to be assisted by their deputies, to the end by suche meanes, to be the better able to visite the sick and hurt, to take knowledge of the absent, and to iudge if there be any Burgers, Frebutters, Payssants, victualers or others, not beinge in ferme or standinge seruice of the companye: or that doe not ordinarie watche and warde with the Companye that passeth muster.

They shall also ordeyne the Burgemaisters that duringe the takinge of the muster they cause a watche and centinel to be kept at the gates by some of their Burgers, or els if it be a frontyre towne, or that vppon other occasion they thinke it necessarye, shal cause the gates to be shut duringe the musteringe.

And if the musters be passed in any fort or in the Campe they shall with the aduice of the Captaines officers, or Commanders, sett the best order in the watche, and Centinals they possibly can, accordinge to the situation of the places, as for the more surer of the same place they shal finde convenient.

They shall also before they beginne the said musters cause the former rolles of each Companye to be deliuered them. Also the names and surnames
of the



of the Soldiers with the place of their birth, qualitie and armes they beare of those which shall remayne at watche, likewise of the sicke or hurte with the their lodgings or places, wher they shalbe founde: the which the Captaines meane to passe. and while this muster is a doinge they shall carefully cause to be visited aswell those which are at the watche, as also the sicke or hurte beinge present in the place, by the fouriers of the towne or places, or those deputed from the Magistrate.

And to the end that no boyes or others under this pretence shall disguise themselves as sicke souldiars, shall geue charge to haue their faces scene, also their armour or weapons and horses. And if in any towne or Burrow they shall inquire of the hoste or hostes of the howse, if their souldiar or horsman be sicke or hurte, and accordinge to the reporte which shalbe made by the saide Furriers or their deputies, the saide Commissaries shall use their discretion in the closinge or makinge vp of the rolles, moreouer to be the better assured of those sick, they shall likewise make inquirye of the Sergeants and officers of the Companie secretly, and particularly each of them aparte, to heare if they speake bothe after one sorte.

They shall also not beginne the musters, if the souldiars be not firste assembled in some good place wher no body can come, and this to meete with the fraudes which maye be committed.

The men of warre beinge assembled to passe the muster, the saide Commissaries shall geue an admonition in substance as followeth. Souldiars and bretheren, as by longe experience we haue founde the greivous inconueniences which are chanced by reason of the fraudes, and abuses in the musters, and that thereby townes, and places of great importance are losse, the meanes and reuenues of the Countrey vnprofitably spent, beinge the principall cause that the poore and vaillant souldiars, to the great greife of his Excellence very ill payd which might be remedied, by removinge the saide abuses: I praye you and by vertue of the charge I haue, I doe ordeyne you generally and particularly vppon the othe, which you haue taken to his Excellence, and the Countrey to declare freely if ther be amonge you any passevolant, borrowed souldiars, Burgetts, victuallers, freebutters or others not beinge in standinge seruice vnder your Companie, and that dothe not orderly keepe, watche, and warde and every waye goinge with you to the warres, for suche be vnrworthy to be accounted amongst valiant souldiars and stand you in no steepe, then to charge you with more trauayles watche ward and continels, and for one howse to make you stande twoe. Also doe cause you to loose your honor if necessitie cause you to meete the enemye, when as for the small number which is in your Companie, you are forced to tourne your backs to the Enemye, or geue place, whereas if your companie were stronge and compleat of good and valiant souldiars, you should be often able to beate and descate them, to your great honor and advancinge: and especially, to the honor of God and prosperity of your countrey, so many yeares already afflicted. Wherefore I praye you once againe to reveale them to the end due punishment may be done.

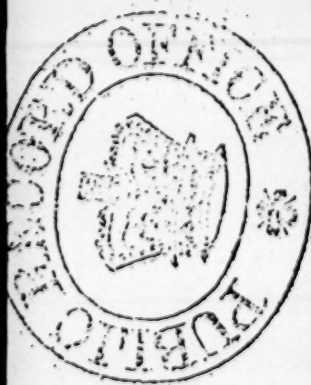
done. I doe also commande all them that are not in standinge service bound to this company, that they depart this muster vppon payne that being knowne to be hanged as Villaynes without grace or fauour.

The saide declaration beinge made, they shall in the presente, sighte, and hearinge of all the company, take the othe of the Captaines his Lieutenant, and the clerke if they be all present or at the least of those whiche shall be present worde by worde as it followethe.

We sweare and promisse that all the personnes and names whiche we present in the rolle by us deliuered, be soldiars in standinge and actuall service of our companie, watching and wardinge every one in his degree. And that they are bounde to followe the company every where, and there whether the same maye be sente. Also that we haue not borrowed nor taken any soldiers in service, or sett them in the rolle but those whiche haue had absolute and deuote passport of ther Captaines or otherwise haue bin free. And finallie that in no sorte, directly or indirectlie, we pretend by this muster to defraude his Excel. the country, or any other body. And if the Captein, Lieutenant, or Clerke (not withstandinge the saide othe) be found in faulte, his Excell^{cie} commandes the Commissaries hauinge found the fault, after the othe geuen and taken, to aduertise him of the same, to be punished as perjurers according to the merite.

The saide Commissaries beginninge the musters, shall euer take the old and last rolle, whiche they shall haue made for them selues, whiche shall containe onlie twoe or thre names in a page, to the end to serue at least for six musters or more, and shall call the souldiers by name and surname according as they are sett downe in the old and last rolles, so to know the better the souldiers that are deade, runne away or licensed, and to newe come in ther places. Also if these which wear passed the last muster for sick or absent be retourned, and if they find them not present at the muster they shall not onlie not passe the said almes but also shall at the shutting vp of the rolle rebate the wages, of such souldiers whiche the Captaines by the former rolle shall haue profited, and shall inquire of the deede to the end punishment be donne accordingly.

And as touchinge the rolles, that every mustering time must be made so well for the service of his Excell^{cie} and the Country, as for the Capteins, they shall geue order and knowledge to the Captaines and Clarkes once for al, that they shall make ther rolles in order as followethe. Vizt. First to sett downe the Captaines, Lieutenants and Ensignes each with the ther men, then ther Sargeants, Clerk or Furrier, the sargen, the two Drummes in one lease or syde, the lease beinge foulded in the middese, euery of them with ther names, surnames and place of ther birthe and qualite, with the armor and weapons they beare, afterwardes the Esquadrone euerie one a part beginninge from the Corporall, then the Lantspades, gentelmen and those whiche beare armes that haue greatest wages: afterwardes the soldiars seruinge vnder the esquadrone, every one in order afore saide with the ther names and surnames places of ther birth qualitie and armes they beare, with the wages they receaue



receaue, and ten in a syde by cause they may be the better nombred, and shall cause ther order to be duly obserued by the others, reiectinge al rolles that are sett downe oterwise.

They shall take good heede in the musteringe, that none aduance themselves to be named oterwise then ther trew name is, with ther surname as they bare it beinge most knowne therby, and if they find any to haue done otherwise, they shall cause them to be chastised by capitall punishment, and if the Captaine be pertaker of the faulte, they shall lett his Excell. vnderstande therof in his counsel of State, to the end to be dealt therein as shalbe found conuenient.

And forasmuche as hetherto ther haue bin great faultes found in the closing of the rolles by many Commissaries of Musters, hauing not taken suche regard as was requisite, aswell in respect of the sufficiencie of the men, the armour, and weapons whiche they beare, as of ther interteinment, and that also the count of the rolles haue not bin thus made accordinge to the lyst ther vpon sett downe: his Excellie desiringe to prouide therein, ordeynethe expresse all Commissaries of what nation soeuer they be, that they shall take speciall and carefull regard, if the company be ariued and enterteined accordinge to the Captaines commission, and the list of the enterteinment ther made, noting one euery soldiar or officer, the wages whiche he hath and the armes he beareth, yf they be good, and the person abled to beare and vse them, and if they find any faulte may casseir them, or els geue warninge ther of against the next muster to be amended, or to prouide of better and more conuenient, but if they finde fault that the soldiars be not armed as they shoulde beinge not withstandinge good men, shall passe no other wages then according to the armes they beare, as by the list is appointed, whiche shalbe deliuered to the saide Commissarie.

And if ther be any soldiars newly come into the company whiche at ther entrance haue not taken the othe accustomed, they shall putt them a side, and after the muster done, shall make them take the othe of Faithfulnesse to his Excellie and the country, and vppon the said othe shal charge them to declare the day the entred into seruice vnder the saide company, of whiche daye they shall keepe notice on ther rolles. Also if ther be any deperted out of the companye with the passport or without, and shall demaund of the Captaine, his Lieutenant, or Clerke, the day and the cause, of ther deperture whiche they shalbe bounde to declare faithfully vppon the othe by them taken, to the end according to the same may be prouided and the accoumpt made, one Deme Correction donne.

The Commissarye shall passe none, absent from the muster, vnder pretexte that they shoulde be sicke, hurte, or otherwise departed, by leaue for certein dayes, saue only the sicke, and hurte, whiche shalbe at the place of the said muster, that they with the ther armes and horse duringe the musters be visited, and otherwyse that those whiche may be sick, or hurt, ont of the place in the Hospitalls, or els where, that it so appeare to them sufficiently by due attestation of the Hospitall Maisters, or of the horse of the burgeses wher they are sicke,

sicke, with the attestation of the ordinary Commissarie of the Musters of that place or qualitie if any be ther. And of the other absent whiche are not sicke, or hurt, shal passe none, if they be not departed with thre knowledge and licence of the cheife commander of the garrison and the Captain and that ther passport besigned accordinge to his Excellencies Passport to that effect made.

And to the end they shall not be deceued by any, hauinge obtayned passport and notwithstandinge remayne still in garrison, passing in muster with the others, they shall signe no passports of licence, be it for perticular affaires, or to goe to the warres, if they cause not the soldiars to appear afore them by ther ordinarie, to the end to keepe vpon the same not only good notice of the names and the day of ther departure, but also of the signes wherby they may knowe them at ther retourne, as in the 2^d Article followinge wilbe declared.

They shall not also permyte, that of one company, at one instant ther be more absent for priuate affaires then 2. or 3. and to goe to the warres at the most fire, and all with ther knowledg and likinge as aforesayd, and not aboue eight or teinne dayes.

They shall not also passe any Burgers, or in habitanee of townes, or Burrowes, whiche shalbe inrolled and accepted in seruice into any company duringe the time that the same shalbe there in garrison, but shall ordeyne the Captain to geue them passport and take others in ther places presently, or at least within the monethe, ne ther yett any soldiars newly come into the companye, if they haue not due passport of the Captain vnder whome they serued signed ioyntly by the Commissary ordinarie of the musters, or that before were free: nether yet in one Companie but of one nation, vnllesse by expresse licence of his Excellencie, or of his counsell of State and that ther names and surnames be expressed in the act, in which case may not withstandinge passe in one company at the most aboue five or sixe, all agreeable to the Placart sett forth by his Excellencie vppon the musters whiche placard his Excellencies meaninge is, that all Commissaries of musters so muche as concernes ther charge, shalbe bound to manteyne without to suffer or performe any bzeache therein. And for the faults that haue bynn found, his Excellencie forbids most expresse to passe no fayned names, or otherwise vnder pretext of the payment of Sargeant maior, of Commissarie, or others whosoeuer they be not beinge in standing seruice of the company, without expresse act of his Excellencie and the Counsell of State, vppon payne of the quadruple to be recouered of the commissaries whiche shall haue donne to the contraries, and besides to be punished according to the exigent of the dede.

And to the end the soldiars shall not ayd them selues any more with the said Passport. The commissaries shall note vppon the back therof, the daye that they are come in seruice of the company vnder ther charge.

They shall not likewise passe the men or boyes of the Captaines, Lieutenants, or ensignes, if they be not present at the muster and nere to ther masters to the end they be not passed twice.

They shall also require of the soldiars one ther othes if the Armes they beare



beare be ther owne and if they borrowed them not of others, and those that haue not ther owne armes or weapons they shall cassette without paye or passport.

They shall take speciall regard that the Captains haue ther competent number of officers, musquiter, pikemen, Rondaassiers and other Gentelmen, and those haue most wages in ther companie, and that the men and armes be sufficient, or els shall not passe them more wages then for a common sol-
diar, or if they be unworthie shall cassette them presentlie.

The said Commissarie shall take great and carefull heede, and doe all ende-
uour to the uttermost of ther power to know all the soldiares of the companies vnder ther charge, and to performe that the more easily, they shall note it one the roll which they shall keepe (without to make any priuie therunto) if they haue any mark of hurte or other in ther face, or ther arme, or legge, also ther stature ther Phisionomie or the age they may be of, if they be black or white of complexion, the culler of ther beardes, whether married or unmarried, hie or lowe of stature satt or leane, or haue other markes wherby they maye Judge whether vnder the said names others happely might passe, or be pre-
sented at the muster so to defraude the same.

And in the horfmen companies shall marke the stature and goodnesse of the horse, the haire of the tayle and other markes the horse may beare, so to knowe the better the man that rydethe one the same, and if the horse be changed since the former muster, shall require to know the cause and make some marginal note therof as as they shall think convenient.

The said Commissaries hauing charg to passe the Musters of anye com-
pany in towne, fort, or place wher ther be more companies then the same, of horse or fotemen, they shall not passe the muster alone, but shall likewise passe Muster or take reluinge of the other companies that are there, to the end ioyntly to make report. And his Excellencie expresse commandement is, that in such case the captaines of such companies shall obaye, considering they are bound to suffer the Muster to be taken, so oft as it shalbe required.

And whereas by the resolutions taken oppon this point, they shalbe bound to assist each time at the payment to be made to the soldiares, they shall geue order that if any marchant, or Burger of the Towne hath any thing owing him by the soldiar, officer, or Captain, that in suche case he be contented, to the end no playnts come to his Excellencie.

When ther shalbe any commandment geuen to any company, vnder the charge of the Commissaries of the Musters, hauing in any place wher they serue, to chang and remoue to an other garrison, the saide Commissaries benig commanded by his Excellencie or the Counsell of State, shalbe bound to conduct them to the fort or place, vnto them assigned taking good heede and care that by the way they doe no harme or spoyle to the pay sants, marchants, or others of what quality soeuer they be of. Also if ther number be complete and if ther want any, shall inquire ther after to the end at the next muster may be dealt as they shall find convenient.

Also

Also shall haue due regard of those be mutinous, seditious, or troublers of the other companies: and if they note any that haue suche faultes shall casseir them or procure, them a passport by the Captain specifyinge the reason of suche casseiringe.

The Commissaris hauing ther quarter appointed them, shalbe notwithstanding bound (hauing suche charge of his Excellence or his Counsell of State) to transport himselfe or travaile wher he shalbe commanded, and performe the charge shalbe geuen him in whiche case if they abide fourthe a night from the place they reside in ordinarily, ther shalbe allowed them aboute ther ordinarye, 30. styvers a daye, besides the charge of the wagons, shippes, or boates.

The said Commissaries of the muster shall take othe in the Counsell of State to be true to his Excellence and to the united provinces, to obey his Excellencies counsell of States commandements, and duly and truly to behaue themselves in the discharge of ther office, according to ther commission, the Instructions, the Placarte, listes, and resolutions whiche shalbe geuen to every of them, respectiuelye in the behalfe and name of his Excell.^{ty} without to winck, or ouerpasse any thinge, with the Gouvernours, Capteins, or others whosoever it be, and that they shall not take or receaue any giftes or presents of the Captaines or commanders of the warres, what valew or worth soeuer they may be of, but shalbe content and pleased with ther ordinary wages and if they be found in default, they shalbe greuouslie punished accordinge to the merit of the facto.

Geuen and resolved by his Excellence the Counsell of State, at the Hage this xxviii. of September 1587. was paraphrased I. Teelinck and signed: R. Leycester, and vnder the same by ordonnance his of Excell. Ch. Huygens.

*Translated and collacioned out of th' originall being in Frenche,
is founde to agree in substance, verbatim. Per me.*

Gilpin.



The forme of the othe / taken by the
 Colonels, Captaines and soldiars, at the first entrance of his Excell. in Gouvernement of th'vnited Provinces of his Excell. within these vnited Provinces, and againe resumed and by his Excell. resoluyd, the 28. of Septembze. 1587.

I Promis and sweare to be faithfull & obedient vnto his Excell. her Maiesties Lieutenant, as Gouernour Generall of th'vnited Provinces of these lowe Contrpes, and to the sayd Provinces and there associates, to obey and serue his sayd Excell. and Chiefs of the warre, already made or appoynted to be made: and in his seruice to behalfe me selfe, faithfullye in all that it shall please the same, to commaund me against the enemies of her Maiestie, his Excell. and the forsayd Provinces: In all townes, places, forts, by water or by lande, as accordinge to the exigent of th'affaires: Also to beare my selfe in all modestie and honestie, accordinge to the Ordinance, made or to be made, touchinge the discipline of the warre: To defende and mainteyne the Christian reformed Religion, and further to doo al that an honest and faithfull Captayn ought and is bound to doo, accordinge to the Commission geuen me, or that shall be geuen me: So helpe me God.

*Translated and collacioned out of the originall being in frence,
 is founde to agree in substance, verbatim. Per me*

Gilpin.